

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3 and 6-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claims 4 and 5, claims 4 and 5 are canceled, and claims 2, 3 and 6-12 are amended to cure informalities. Thus, no new matter is added by this Amendment.

**I. Claims Objections**

Claims 2-12 are objected because "An electronic component" should be changed to "The electronic component." Claims 4 and 5 are canceled, and claims 2, 3 and 6-12 are amended as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

**II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a)**

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,414,222 (Sen); claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,841,075 (Hanson); claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,117,069 (Higgins); and claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sen in view of JP 2000-286125 (Kobayashi) and U.S. Patent No. 6,273,558 (Kitahara). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that Sen does not teach the through hole comprising a plurality of holes arranged along the thickness direction of the substrate, wherein the holes formed adjacent each other in the thickness direction of the substrate have respective center axes shifted from each other as seen in a predetermined direction orthogonal to the thickness direction of the substrate, as now recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is moot.

The Office Action cites Figure 2 of Higgins and asserts that Higgins cures the deficiency of Sen. However, Higgins fails to disclose a through-hole having a major axis

diameter and a minor axis diameter. Accordingly, contrary to the assertions made by the Office Action, Fig. 2 of Higgins does not disclose whether it is a sectional view and from which direction it is viewed. Accordingly, Higgins fails to disclose that the holes formed adjacent each other are in the thickness direction of the substrate and have respective center axes shifted from each other, as seen in the minor axis direction of the through-hole. That is, Hanson, in combination with Higgins, fails to disclose that the predetermined direction orthogonal to the thickness direction of the substrate is the minor axis direction of the through-hole, as recited in claim 1. Kobayashi and Kitahara fail to cure this deficiency.

Thus, claim 1, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are not anticipated nor rendered obvious by Hanson, Higgins, Kobayashi, and Kitahara, in any combination.

Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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